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'Transformation' Cabinet to meet people's aspirations

KUALA LUMPUR: After fielding a 'transformation' team in the 13th general election (GE13), Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is expected to form a 'transformation' Cabinet.

He needs a strong team with new ideas to continue the national transformation agenda towards making Malaysia a high income and developed nation by 2020.

The new Cabinet should hear the pulse of the people after the message delivered by voters in GE13 as, well as strengthen

national unity.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Centre for Technology Policy and International Studies director, Prof Dr Azmi Hassan said the Cabinet members should be qualified and not because of other factors.

Based on the GE13 results, voters want a new Cabinet line comprising more new faces and young leaders willing to speak for the people's interest, especially youths.

"Malaysian society has become

more critical. Sometimes, those appointed as ministers have to buck the trend to meet the needs of the people," he said.

Chinese leaders should be in the Cabinet and they need not necessarily be political leaders but technocrats, business people and leaders of non governmental organisations (NGO).

The MCA and Gerakan had decided to decline government posts due to their disastrous showing in GE13.

Meanwhile, Universiti Utara

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Malaysia (UUM) Politics and International Studies lecturer Md Shukri Shuib felt it is time many young people join the Cabinet to draw support to BN. Since many urban voters rejected BN, he proposed a ministry for urban development be established and focus should not be only on Kuala Lumpur.

The 25 ministries should be retained but some need to be revamped to suit Najib's transformation agenda in politics, economic,

administration, management and implementation.

The Ministry of Information Communications and Culture should be broken up as it consisted of many agencies to give focus more on specific areas.

Md Shukri said 'regional political dimension' should also be avoided when making the Cabinet although some states contributed more seats to BN in GE13.

"It is important to appoint

ministers who can work and put them in ministries based on expertise such as an engineer as Minister of Public Works."

The new cabinet will hopefully help the prime minister bring change to the people and nation and deliver promises (Aku Janji) made in the BN manifesto.

This is important because their performance will be judged by the people who will vote for the party in the 14th general election (GE14). - Bernama